DAVE OLSON/The Columbian

One more day: *Owner Glenda Schuh of Farrell & Eddy Department Store at 305 N.E. Fourth Ave. in downtown Camas jokes with customer Janita Hochhalter. The store will close Friday after serving the area's residents for 95 years. Hochhalter has shopped at the store since 1960.*

End of an Era

Departure of Farrell & Eddy means big change for downtown Camas

By JENNIFER DIRKS
Columbian staff writer

CAMAS — Friday's closure of Farrell & Eddy department store marks the end of an era for the corner of Northeast Fourth Avenue and Birch Street.

The spot has been a retail site since 1887.

Farrell & Eddy sells clothing for women and men, children and babies out of 5,000 square feet. While the family-owned store survived the massive retail shift in the 1960s, when shoppers left downtown stores and headed to the suburban shopping malls, its steam has finally run out.

"It is becoming increasingly difficult in this economy for businesses to show a profit and be competitive with the larger franchises," said part-owner Glenda Farrell Schuh.

"It was because of the continued support of the community that we stayed open all these years," she added. "It was also because of the foresight of my grandparents and my father to change the business with the changing times."

Through the years, the store has followed the trends: groceries, shoes, dressmaking, sewing materials and, most famously, hats.

Farrell family members planted their first retail roots in Camas in August 1903. That year, Charlie E. Farrell swapped 12 years working at the Camas paper mill to take the leap into retail.

He bought a general store that was built in 1887, opened C.E. Farrell General Merchandise and started selling hardware, groceries and sewing materials.

"At the time, no one bought clothes. You could only make them," said Schuh, who is C.E. Farrell's granddaughter.

Farrell's wife, Ursula "Rose" Roffler Farrell, used to work with her husband at the mill but she talked him into letting her make hats for the store.

Clothing soon followed.

In 1924, C.E. Farrell General Merchandise closed after the sudden death of John Farrell, Charlie's

CLOSING/ *please see C9*

FARRELL & EDDY

- **WHAT:** Downtown Camas department store to close Friday after 95 years
- **WHERE:** 305 N.E. Fourth Ave., Camas
- **OWNERS:** Glenda Farrell Schuh, Longview; Marilyn Farrell Webberley, Vancouver; Chuck Farrell, Camas; Mark Farrell, Beaverton, Ore.